

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 6, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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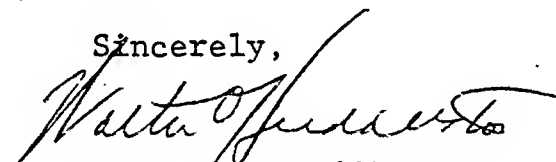
Dear Mr. President:

In recent years the Senate Intelligence Committee, under both Democratic and Republican leadership, has sought to strengthen United States intelligence capabilities by authorizing the necessary resources for the national intelligence budget. As a member of the Intelligence Committee since its creation, I am deeply concerned by indications that the Intelligence Community's budget request may be cut by your Administration before it is submitted to the Congress next year.

In a period of growing federal deficits, I am fully aware of the need to economize and to place strict limits on expenditures for both domestic and military programs. However, our country's intelligence system is the first line of defense not only against Soviet military power, but also against threats of terrorism and disorder worldwide. Effective foreign policy decisions depend heavily on the ability of U.S. intelligence to provide timely and accurate information and analysis to senior policymakers. A dollar spent on intelligence for strategic warning and informed policy decisions is worth ten times the amount in military hardware.

It is particularly important, therefore, not to reduce the national intelligence budget request despite reductions in the military budget request. Decisions on this matter may be made by your Administration in the near future. I strongly urge you to ensure that the U.S. intelligence community has the increased resources needed to meet the challenges of the 80's.

Sincerely,



Walter D. Huddleston

cc: Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
Honorable William J. Casey
Admiral Albert Burkhalter